MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 SEPTEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- The 13 September Israeli air attacks against targets in central Lebanon struck at "terrorist" headquarters, artillery, SAM-9 launchers, katyusha launchers and armored vehicles, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by IDF radio. Although the spokesman said the raids ended in the early afternoon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported further Israeli raids later in the day. Noting that the IDF aircraft singled out "terrorist" targets for special treatment, Jerusalem radio said five "terrorist" centers were hit, mainly in the Shtawrah area. AFP cited reports from Shtawrah that 4 people were killed and 66 were wounded during 15 Israeli raids against Palestinian and leftist Lebanese positions in the area. A Syrian military spokesman's statement carried by Damascus radio said two Syrians were wounded while four guns and two air defense vehicles were hit in the course of 227 Israeli sorties. In the wake of the air attacks, the Israelis reinforced their positions in the Al-Biqa' area with about 40 Merkava tanks, according to Beirut radio.

Israeli officials said the political message of the raids is that Israel will not permit a war of attrition and continued cease-fire violations, Jerusalem radio reported. However, Israel has made it plain to the Syrians that it does not intend to launch an all-out military move against them and sources in Jerusalem have disclosed that Israel want to institutionalize the cease-fire, perhaps in a formal manner, so that clear-cut rules may be established which the Syrians will find difficult to violate, according to IDF radio. Meanwhile, Damascus radio accused the Israelis of intensifying provocations and threats against Syria and warned that further Israeli hostilities should be expected. Claiming that the Israeli and U.S. leaders know that the Arabs can rally round Syria to create a force capable of establishing a balance with Israel, the radio said Syria is not intimidated or frightened by the Israeli threats.

Security Situation -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that east Beirut will shortly be subject to the same security measures as applied to west Beirut so that the two halves of the city can be reunited by 15 September, according to Beirut radio. The western sector was calm, the radio noted, and security forces peacefully took over positions of the ndependent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun. However, six people were killed in renewed clashes between factions in Tripoli, the radio said.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan on Foreign Forces -- Asserting that Lebanon is no place for private armies, President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil told TIME magazine that the Lebanese Government will in the future ensure that none of its neighbors is exposed to military actions from Lebanese territory, Beirut radio reported. While Al-Jumayyil expressed understanding for Israel's desire to keep a close watch on Lebanon, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said in remarks reported by the radio that the Israelis must unconditionally leave Lebanon. The Syrian withdrawal should be placed in a completely different perspective from the Israeli withdrawal, Al-Wazzan stated.

Jordan

King Husayn declared that the peace initiative by U.S. President Ronald Reagan is the "most courageous" stand taken by a U.S. administration since 1956 and that the new proposals are "very positive and constructive." Interviewed on the BBC television "Panorama" program, Husayn also praised the Fes Arab summit plan for achieving an Arab consensus on a projected foundation for a lasting Middle East peace. Although he discounted the possibility of serious negotiations with the current Israeli Government, Husayn stated that recognition of the State of Israel is "inevitable" once negotiations have ended to establish peace in the area. Emphasizing that ties between the Jordanians and Palestinians are very strong,

Husayn said he envisages a plan for a federation of Palestine and Jordan in which both peoples will have to decide. Asked about the Fes summit's definition of the territory for a Palestinian state, Husayn underscored that this state would consist of the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem. On his relationship with the PLO, Husayn stressed that there is a continuing dialogue between Jordan and the PLO and there are no problems between them, though differences of opinion do exist. Husayn contended that the PLO is a liberation organization and will die out when peace is achieved.

PLO

In a statement to APS, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the results of the Fes Arab summit were "constructive and positive." On the Israeli presence in Lebanon, he alleged that the Israelis violated the agreement for the IDF to withdraw to over 5 miles from Beirut and that the Lebanese themselves have helped the Israeli forces to remain. Regarding the new U.S. proposals, he emphasized that the United States cannot impose its will on the Arabs and that the U.S. attitude is not a positive indicator. On the other hand, 'Arafat said that because of his realistic outlook he would welcome a meeting with U.S. President Reagan. Interviewed by the German magazine DER SPIEGEL, 'Arafat claimed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was expected and was an "American" attack, not really an Israeli one; he said Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon is just another "U.S. mercenary." On Soviet aid, he insisted that the Soviets have done all they can to help the PLO.

Meanwhile, Tunis radio reported that Fatah Central Committee members have arrived in Tunis to begin meetings chaired by 'Arafat.

Syria

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, information minister and special envoy of President Hafiz al-Asad, met with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran and delivered a message on the Fes conference, on Middle East issues and on the Syrian situation in Lebanon, IRNA reported. According to Damascus radio, Iskandar Ahmad also met with the Majlis speaker and in a Tehran radio interview stressed that the Fes summit peace plan does not contain even implicit recognition of Israel.

Israel

By initiating its plan at this time, the United States saved the existence of the PLO, which will resume its acts of terror, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in remarks broadcast by IDF radio.

Saudi Arabia

After denying reports that Saudi and Omani forces will carry out joint exercises with the U.S. RDF in October, a Defense Ministry source cited by Riyadh radio reaffirmed that Saudi Arabia opposes the presence of foreign forces on its territory.

DAILY REPORT

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SARBOLAND, GOL DAD 'RELIEVED' OF MINISTRY DUTIES

LD121622 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, chaired a session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium this morning at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

A number of addenda to laws were approved at the presidium meeting and the date on which the Revolutionary Council periodical session is to be held, and its working policy, was decided.

After discussing the law on the organization and activity of the DRA Revolutionary Council and its Presidium and matters related to the Law of the DRA Local Organs of State Power and Administration, it was decided that the draft of these laws be submitted to the DRA Revolutionary Council periodical session for final consideration and approval.

Similarly, the law of civil aviation was also approved.

Also in today's session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in accordance with a proposal of the Council of Ministers to improve the affairs of government and enhance the effectiveness of state administration, approval was given to reforming the organization of the Ministry of Information and Culture creating four separate administrative units: the BAKHTAR information agency; the State Cultural Committee; the State Committee for Radio, Television and Cinematography; and the Department of Printing and Publication, which will work under the supervision of the Council of Ministers.

Similarly, in order to improve the affairs of the ministries and state departments, the deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers, 'Abdolmajid Sarboland and Pohanmal Gol Dad, who were also in charge of the Ministries of Information and Culture and of Higher and Vocational Education, were relieved of their duties concerning these ministries and will continue their duties as deputy chairmen of the DRA Council of Ministers.

PARTY, MILITARY OFFICIALS ADDRESS ARMY SEMINAR

LD100938 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Sep 82

[Text] Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, today attended the concluding session of a seminar composed of the political heads and deputies from units and large companies of the DRA Army battalions.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that, in accordance with the work of the seminar, Saleh Mohammad Ziray began the session with a review of the recent successes of the heroic Army of the DRA in eliminating counterrevolution and in restoring security and peace to the country. Dr Ziray also spoke about the duties of party members concerning the resolutions of the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum. He emphasized their role in strengthening relations between the party and the masses and in explaining party policy and aspirations to the people.

Nur Ahmad Nur delivered a lengthy speech about the role of political organs and the duties of political workers in realizing the instructions of the PDPA Central Committee for consolidating the revolutionary army and for enhancing the role and value of the army's political organization in restoring a peaceful life to the country.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, acting minister of national defense, presented a comprehensive report to those attending the seminar on the state of combatant preparedness, on the selection and training of units and companies for the DRA Army and on the recent successes achieved by the army.

At the end of this 5-day seminar, Col (Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi), head of the Political Affairs Department of the DRA Army, drew conclusions from the seminar work, positively evaluating its effectiveness for enhancing and improving party work in the army.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that at the end of the session a number of political workers were promoted for their initiative and heroism in the struggle against the counterrevolution.

FARYAB GOVERNOR ORDERS MOSQUE DESTROYED

GF130856 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 9 Sep 82 p 1, 10

[Text] London, 8 Sep (AAP) -- The governor of Faryab Province in Afghanistan, (Hashem Peykar), ordered that a mosque at Sorkh Ab be destroyed. This order was carried out on 17 August and the incident has caused widespread unrest in this area located along the Soviet border.

Several clashes between the mujahidin and the Soviet occupation army have followed the incident. The clashes have occurred in Qeysar, Almar, Shirin Tagab and Pashtun Kowt. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Golabzoy has also visited the provincial capital of Meymaneh.

AAP reported from Meymaneh that Governor (Hashem Peykar), appointed governor of Faryab only 3 months ago, visited the major mosque of the city on 13 August along with a number of foreigners. After the Friday prayers, he expressed his wish to speak to the people. In a lengthy speech, he listed the benefits of the April Revolution, introduced the foreigners as brother Muslims from the Soviet Union and said that the Muslims in the Soviet Union enjoy prosperity and freedom of religion. He asked the congregation to support the Karmal regime.

During his speech, a man called Said Qorban stood up and, addressing the governor, said that the people would readily accept his demands provided he expel the Russians from Afghanistan. Qorban further said that the foreigners the governor had introduced as free Muslims did not even know how to offer Muslim prayers. The people followed Said Qorban's address with the slogans: "Russians get out of Afghanistan" and "Death to Russians." They lifted Said Qorban and carried him around the city in a procession.

For the next 3 days the governor tried his best to arrest Said Qorban but he failed because no one was willing to disclose his whereabouts. On 17 August the governor was informed that Said Qorban was hiding in a mosque in Sorkh Ab village northwest of the city. The governor informed the Soviet officials, who sent a helicopter gunship and bombarded the mosque in Sorkh Ab. Some 12 bombs were dropped on the adobe mosque, turning it into rubble.

The bombing killed five citizens, including Mullah Said Sarwar and Mullah Said Abdol Wahab, on the spot. Of the 16 wounded in the incident 5 died the next day. Said Qorban was not among the dead or wounded.

FORCES ROUT 'TRAITORS' IN ZABOL PROVINCE

LD102312 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Sep 82

[Text] A group of traitors to the homeland, revolution and people, who for a long period had been stopping motor vehicles and robbing the passengers on the Kabul-Qandahar highway, were crushed yesterday in the (Tang-e Kheshm) region, Shawjow District, Zabol Province, by officers and men of the 7th Division. One of the group was captured.

A Zabol Province security force spokesman said that six assorted American and Chinese weapons and one rocket launcher were seized from the robbers, along with assorted ammunition.

NARASIMHA RAO LEAVES FOR USSR VISIT 14 SEP

BK140909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Sep 82

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has said that efforts will be made to find new areas of India-Soviet cooperation. Talking to newsmen before leaving for Moscow, Rao said the seventh meeting of the India-Soviet joint commission will review the decisions of the last meeting held in New Delhi in 1981 and action taken since.

In reply to a question, Rao said certain areas of India-Soviet cooperation have been identified. Now we have to negotiate and proceed further. He said the details are being worked out. Narasimha Rao said he will have wide-ranging discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on the 17th. Events of the past 1 year are likely to be discussed by them.

The external affairs minister was seen off by Minister of State A.A. Rahim, Soviet Ambassador Vorontsov and others.

AFP Report

BK140932 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 14 Sep 82

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 14 (AFP) -- Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao left here today for Moscow to attend the Indo-Soviet joint commission meeting and prepare groundwork ahead of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's summit meeting with President Leonid Brezhnev slated for September 20.

Mr Rao told newsmen at Delhi's Palam Airport that he expected a "lot of forward movement" in Indo-Soviet bilateral cooperation and reiterated that new areas of cooperation would have to be "identified, negotiated and proceeded further".

Besides co-chairing the seventh session of the commission established in 1972, Mr Rao is scheduled to hold talks with his Soviet counterpart, Andrey Gromyko, on September 17 to prepare for the summit.

Mrs Gandhi is scheduled to arrive in Moscow on September 20 on a week-long visit to the Soviet Union, her second since she assumed leadership of India about a decade ago.

"We have not met for a long time. It is a year since I last met Mr Gromyko," Mr Rao said. "So much has happened during this period that we will have enough to discuss and exchange views."

Mr Rao parried a question on whether any new agreement would be signed during Mrs Gandhi's visit. "The details have to be worked out, it is not possible to say anything in advance...it depends on the talks taking place", he said without committing himself.

An Indian official spokesman said yesterday that Mrs Gandhi would not carry any shopping list for arms during her visit to Moscow. "The prime minister did not carry any shopping list for arms to the United States (where she visited last month).... The same applies to her visit to Moscow", he said.

"It is an official goodwill visit", he added.

However, diplomatic analysts recall the visit of Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov earlier this year during which extensive talks were held reviewing India's defence needs and the scope for Soviet help.

Though officially neither New Delhi nor Moscow came out with a public admission, it was widely believed that India's defence needs for the next decade were discussed in detail and tentative arrangements fixed.

Marshal Ustinov brought with him over 30 Soviet generals.

Only yesterday, Indian newspapers reported the arrival of a new Soviet-built missile-fitted destroyer of the "Kashin" class to join the Indian Navy. According to official statistics, Moscow alone meets at least 60 per cent of India's arms exports.

Meanwhile, Indian newspapers today carried front page reports on the scope of the summit. "Gandhi-Brezhnev talks to cover vital issues", said the NATIONAL HERALD, which is considered close to Mrs Gandhi.

SPOKESMAN VIEWS UPCOMING GANDHI VISIT TO USSR

BK131655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and Soviet President Brezhnev will review the international situation with special reference to tension spots in the world during Mrs Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union beginning on Monday next. The talks will cover the vital issues of disarmament and world peace.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the two leaders will also focus their attention on giving a new dimension to the bilateral relations.

The spokesman said that the discussions between the two leaders on disarmament assumes special significance in view of the known Indian stand on the issue and in the awareness that the Soviet Government and the people want peace and disarmament. The prime minister herself has frequently given expression to our concern at arms race leading to various conflicts that beset the world.

Replying to questions, the spokesman said the prime minister's visit to the Soviet Union is in the nature of an official good-will visit. While there is no structured agenda for her talks with the Soviet leaders, the visit is designed to strengthen the already-close relations between the two countries with emphasis on greater economic cooperation and greater working together in matters of international concern.

The spokesman pointed out that before her visit to the United States, Mrs Gandhi had said that she was not taking with her a shopping list. The same applies in the case of this visit also, he added.

IRRIGATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM USSR VISIT

BK131127 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] New areas of cooperation in the field of irrigation and water resources have been identified between India and the Soviet Union, and experts of both the countries will meet shortly to finalize further details in this matter. This was stated by Minister for Irrigation Kedar Pandey while talking to newsmen on his return from the Soviet Union in New Delhi today.

NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOR, REHABILITATION

BK111347 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Mrs Mohsina Kidwai was today inducted into the Union Council of Ministers as minister of state for labor and rehabilitation. With this, the strength of the Union Council of Ministers has gone up from 60 to 61.

At a ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House], President Zail Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mrs Kidwai.

INFORMATION MINISTER SPEAKS ON PRESS FREEDOM

BK130423 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] Information and Broadcasting Minister N.K.P. Salve has said that the government fully values the freedom of the press and has no intention to curb it. Talking to newsmen at Kopargaon in Maharashtra, he said a meeting of representatives of the press will be called in New Delhi shortly to discuss the Bihar press bill. Addressing the All-India Film Producers Council in Bombay, Salve said that he has gone through the bill and also consulted lawyers and some editors. He said he has come to the conclusion that there is nothing wrong in protecting persons from scurrilous attacks by the newspapers.

Speaking at the state conference of the Bihar Pradesh Congress-I committee's legal cell in Patna, party General Secretary Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai alleged that the opposition has been raising a hue and cry against the bill for its selfish motive and not for the freedom of the press.

State Chief Minister Dr Jagannath Mishra said that the bill has been brought forward as some of the newsmen refused to abide by the code of journalistic ethics. He said the bill is intended to curb yellow journalism.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH TO HEAD KASHMIR RULING PARTY

BK111329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Sep 82

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah was today unanimously elected leader of the legislative party of the ruling national conference. At the legislative party meeting his name was proposed by the chief whip. All the 46 members of the legislative assembly were present.

Dr Farooq Abdullah was inducted as health minister last month and was appointed chief minister on Wednesday following the death of Sheikh Abdullah.

Later, addressing the members, he said Sheikh Abdullah strengthened the bonds of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. He told them to work for further strengthening these bonds.

Dr Farooq Abdullah called on Mrs Gandhi at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] before she left for New Delhi. He is understood to have apprised the prime minister of the political situation in the state.

ABDULLAH CALLS STATE'S SECULARISM 'PRICELESS'

BK120751 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah has called upon people of the state to redouble their efforts to further strengthen the bonds of communal amity and secularism.

In his first broadcast over Srinagar radio station, he said Sheikh Abdullah had always upheld the ideal of secularism. This is a priceless legacy which has to be defended and further strengthened, he added.

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON OUTCOME OF MOSCOW TALKS

BK140327 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik has said that Pakistan and the Soviet Union have considerably similar views on various major international issues. He said both countries understand that the indirect talks held in Geneva on Afghanistan are the first constructive steps toward a political solution of this issue. The foreign secretary was talking to newsmen upon his return to Islamabad after leading the Pakistani delegation to the 2-day talks in Moscow.

During the talks they exchanged views on important matters on eve of the 37th session of the UN General Assembly. He said that the major international issues reviewed during the talks included the reduction of arms, the end of neocolonial rule in Namibia, the Middle East issue, the Iran-Iraq war and the Indian Ocean. He said that during the exchange of views on economic matters the North-South dialogue was reviewed.

The foreign secretary said that during the review of these international issues there was considerable similarity in both countries' respective positions and views. He said Pakistan belives that similarity and identity of views on various international issues can be the basis for further promoting bilateral relations between the two countries.

The foreign secretary said his Moscow visit was undertaken in the background of the Pakistani president's recent interview with a local journal to which the Soviet leaders attached special significance. The president said in his interview that Pakistan desires friendly relations with all its neighboring countries, including the Soviet Union, which is not only an important neighbor of Pakistan, but also a country with which Pakistan has no bilateral dispute. Pakistan has always remained aloof of great-power tensions by following the principles of nonalignment, and Pakistan wants to promote friendly relations with all countries, especially with both superpowers.

The foreign secretary said, however, that the similarity of views on a number of international issues did not imply that there were no differences of opinion between the two countries on certain problems. One such issue, he said, is the problem of Afghanistan. He said the Afghanistan problem was discussed in detail. During the talks the two sides stated their acknowledged positions.

The foreign secretary said Pakistan has consistently supported a negotiated solution to the Afghanistan crisis and has also supported every initiative for a political settlement. Pakistan's attitude on the recent indirect talks in Geneva is positive and constructive. The Geneva talks have made headway toward a satisfactory political settlement. He said, however, that, for any such future dialogue on a political settlement to the Afghanistan issue, the attitude of all sides concerned must be positive. So far as Pakistan's attitude is concerned, it has steadfastly maintained that the Afghan issue be settled in accordance with the principles of the resolutions of Islamic Conference Organization, the UN General Assembly and the Nonaligned Movement declarations. The final settlement of the issue must take into account the interests of all parties concerned.

He said Pakistan has consistently asserted that the return of Afghan refugees is the issue of primary importance and that this cannot be solved until the foreign troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan. Other than this, conditions should be created for the return of the Afghan refugees, acceptable to them and allowing them to return to their homes with safety, honor and dignity.

Another issue on which both countries have differences of opinion is the Kampuchean issue and both sides have their own stand on this.

Discussing bilateral matters, the foreign secretary said that both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made in economics, trade and cultural fields.

In the economic sector, both countries reviewed the work being done in the Pakistan steel mills in Karachi, the third unit of the Guddu power station and the tractor plant in Lahore. The Soviet Union is providing assistance in the three projects. Both sides agreed that officials of both countries will jointly assess the possibility of future economic cooperation to identify new sectors of mutual cooperation.

The foreign secretary said both countries agreed to make efforts to promote bilateral trade and identify commodities to be exchanged between the two countries. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Pakistan-Soviet Union cultural program.

The foreign secretary said the Moscow talks were held in a spirit of friendliness and reflected both countries' desire to further promote bilateral relations in various fields for mutual benefit. He said that the Soviet side has been invited to visit Pakistan for the next round of talks, which will be held in Islamabad. It was also proposed that there should be frequent rounds of talks between the two countries.

HAQ SAYS LOCAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN 1983

BK131041 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said local bodies' elections would certainly be held next year. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Peshawar today on a brief visit, he said preparations for these elections were underway.

The president expressed satisfaction over the race of development activities as well as the law and order situation in the province and lauded the role of the people of Northwest Frontier Province in the establishment of Pakistan. On being informed that the people of this province had high expectations from [as heard] him, the president remarked that in view of their role in the creation of Pakistan, they would fully support anyone who works for the stability of the country.

SOCIAL REFORM COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED

GF112036 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Aug 82 pp 1, 8

[By Azhar Masood]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 -- A number of decisions were taken for the establishment of a true Islamic society and its complete reformation at an extraordinary inter-provincial meeting first of its kind ever held today. It was chaired by President Ziaul Haq. The meeting, lasting ten and a half hours, was attended by at least 150 important personalities, including federal ministers, presidential advisers, provincial governors, provincial ministers, federal secretaries, provincial chief secretaries, provincial inspector general, deputy martial law administrators and other high ranking officials.

The meeting decided to set up four different committees assigned to make speedy recommendations for the eradication of social evils, reforming and establishing a true society, making justice easily accessible and inexpensive, keeping a check on government functionaries and completely weeding out corruption from government departments.

Announcing the decisions of the highest level meeting, the federal information and broadcasting secretary told the press here tonight that the meeting began at 9.30 a.m.

The secretary said that at the outset of the meeting, President Zia said the basic purpose of the meeting was to find ways and means to eliminate social evils, corruption and to establish a true Islamic society.

Quoting the president, the federal information secretary said: "Our effort is to provide a model government to the nation and we have been making relentless efforts during the last five years to achieve our task -- we do not say our government is model but a qualitative change is apparent in the society and we will continue our efforts to make a real model government. In our efforts we require co-operation both from the government functionaries and the public as well. Though we have not been able to establish a true Islamic society, the Islamic colour in our social life is quite apparent".

The people, Gen. Mujib [federal information secretary] said, had more expectations from the martial law government and on "our part we are striving hard to fulfil the aspirations of the people. He said: "The complete reformation of the society has two aspects -- firstly, we have to reform the government functionaries and, secondly, the society. It was an obligation of the government itself, he said, to have a clean administrative machinery but for the reformation of the society the people's involvement was always needed.

The information secretary, quoting the president, said: "As far as the government is concerned it will continue to provide guidance to the public but the main job has to be done by the people themselves -- we will collectively have to work in the spirit of 'jihad' for the reformation of the society".

The secretary said the committees constituted today would have to make two kinds of recommendations -- long term and short term measures.

Referring to the committee assigned to reform the society in true Islamic spirit, the secretary said, would be headed by the federal information minister, Raja Zafarul Haq. This committee, he said, would also have provincial ministers as its members and it would furnish its recommendations within a period of three weeks. "The committee will [be] assigned with dual responsibility -- firstly, to induce the public towards religious duties and, secondly, to socially reform them".

The conference stressed that the people should actively participate in islah-muashara [reformation of society] campaign and wage jihad against the evils that plagued the society. President Zia said the efforts of the government had produced good results and the Islamic way of life was reflected more than ever in the society. He said "we believe in Islam and want it to be fully reflected in the society".

The country was created in the name of Islam and it was imperative that the Islamic spirit be infused in all spheres of life.

Gen. Mujib said the president was gratified to note that the present situation was much better than the one existed five years ago.

The government did not claim that the crimes had been rooted out but it was a fact that they had been considerably reduced. The situation of law and order was much better and the honour of the people was safe, he added.

The president said that a good amount of work had yet to be done as, despite improvement, the present society was still not fully in accordance with Islam.

President Zia appreciated the sentiments and spirit displayed by the people throughout the country in celebrating independence day with ever-greater enthusiasm, fervour and spirit of patriotism.

The conference decided that the campaign for reformation of society should pay immediate attention to eradication of corruption, bribery, narcotics trafficking, illegal acquisition of property.

With regard to adulteration, top priority would be given to deal sternly with adulteration in drugs and medicines. It would be decided whether it was necessary to make punishment more stringent and raise the number of courts.

All the cases pertaining to these matters would be tried by military courts. Gen. Mujib said it was under consideration to award death penalty for illegal trade of narcotics.

The secretary said the conference chose five areas: hospital, railways, customs, income tax (excise and taxation) and telephone department where immediate attention will be given, and concrete steps will be taken to eradicate corruption from these departments.

The 4 major committees set up by the meeting are 'committee for social reform', de-regulation committee, committee dealing with justice and the committee relating to the rules of efficiency and discipline.

The secretary said wherever there were flaws and lacunas in the laws dealing with social evils they would be removed by amending the laws. If the relevant law provided lesser punishment in any case, this would be enhanced.

The conference considered that persuasive measures should be adopted to create an environment for reformation and special emphasis be given on 'ibadaat' such as prayers fasting, hajj and zakat. It was also stressed that people should be persuaded to speak truth, avoid giving false evidence in a court, lead simple and autere life and keep good relations with neighbours.

The conference considered that the reformation of society would be an additional responibility of the Federal Ministry of Information.

The president highly praised the performance of the ministry, television, radio and press for the role played during independence day celebrations.

The conference set up another committee called "deregulation committee" with Dr. Mehboobul Haq, deputy chairman Planning Commission, as its chairman.

The Committee will review the existing economic controls and regulations. It will also suggest a suitable framework to encourage fair competition to stimulate creative enterprise.

The rules on efficiency and discipline committee, dealing with the performance of the government employee, would be headed by the governor of Baluchistan, Lt. Gen. Rahimuddin Khan. Lt. Gen K.M. Arif and the establishment secretary would be its members.

The committees would give its report within two weeks. The committee would work on finalising recommendations as to how the working of the government employees could be improved. The committee would suggest ways and means to deal effectively with employees involved in corruption.

The committee on justice would be headed by the governor of NWFP, Lt Gen. Fazle Haq and its members would be the law minister, Sharifuddin Pirzada, the law ministers of the Punjab and Sind and the federal interior secretary. The committee would have to submit its report within eight weeks.

The committee would examine the evidence act and procedural laws and make recommendations of speedy and inexpensive justice.

NEPAL

THAPA SPEAKS ON NONALIGNMENT, KAMPUCHEA POLICY

BK101425 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 10 Sep 82

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Katmandu, Sept. 10 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa reaffirmed Nepalese non-alignment today and said his country would support the new Cambodian coalition government under Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Speaking in the National Panchayat (parliament), the prime minister said his government was continuing to seek support for Nepal's proposal to make the subcontinent into a zone of peace.

He said dialogue with India in this respect "continued".

Calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and termination of foreign interference in Afghanistan and Cambodia, Mr. Thapa said Nepal has recognised Democratic Kampuchea (the ex-Pol Pot government) from the very beginning and the policy has not changed as we believe the newly constituted joint Government of Democratic Kampuchea was only an extention of the provision."

Referring to the major powers of the world, Mr. Thapa said "Nepal's relations with the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union have been good and added that the Middle East crisis should be resolved on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

SRI LANKA

FREEDOM PARTY ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

BK071115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Sep 82

[Text] The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] headed by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike has announced the nomination of Hector Kobbekaduwa as the party's presidential candidate.

A communique from the SLFP headquarters said that the decision was taken by the Central Committee, which met on 11 August.

MILITARY COURT DEBATING QOTBZADEH SENTENCE

GF101630 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 10 IRNA -- The military revolutionary tribunal, headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Reyshahri, dealing with the cases of the former foreign minister, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, and 12 other of his accomplices, went into the session at noon Thursday to come out with the verdicts.

The trial of Qotbzadeh opened in the military revolution tribunal on Aug. 14 and went on for three sessions. Qotbzadeh, arrested last March, is charged with plotting to overthrow the Islamic Republic and martyr Imam Khomeyni. So far 12 others involved in the plot have been tried.

A number of civilians and military personnel who were implicated have been arrested. Information on the involvement of these defendants are still being collected, and a number of the plotters are being incriminated.

The court's verdicts are likely to be announced this coming week.

KHAMENE'I RECEIVES SYRIAN PRESIDENT'S ENVOY

LD131912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Syrian president's special envoy, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the foreign affairs minister, the minister of state for executive affairs and the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, a message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad was given to our country's president pertaining to the outcome of the Fes summit, the current situation in the region and the Syrian stance toward the recent developments in Lebanon.

Mr Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad also met and conferred with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, this evening.

Message From Al-Asad

GF131744 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 13, (IRNA) -- The results of the recent Fes conference, in Morocco, the situation in the region and the Middle East, as well as the Syrian position towards the recent developments in Lebanon, were conveyed to the Iranian president, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, by the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad's, message.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, the Syrian minister of information and special envoy of President Hafiz al-Asad, today met with President Khamene'i and submitted to him the message of Hafiz al-Asad.

In addition to the Syrian delegation, the Iranian foreign minister, Velayati, and the minister of state for executive affairs, Aqazadeh, the high advisor of the president, Mir-Salim, as well as the Syrian ambassador to Tehran, Ibrahim Ahmad al-Yunis, were present in this meeting.

Ahmad Iskander Ahmad, who is heading a delegation, arrived here yesterday.

Damascus Report

JN140628 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, received in his house yesterday Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, information minister and President Hafiz al-Asad's personal envoy. Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs, Nasir Qaddur, assistant Syrian foreign minister, and the Syrian ambassador in Tehran attended the meeting.

Discussions dealt with the current Arab situation in light of the resolutions and results of the Arab summit conference in Fes. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and the impact of international developments on the Middle East situation.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad stressed that the Arab peace plan approved by the Fes summit conference last Friday does not contain even an implicit recognition of the Zionist entity.

In an interview with Tehran radio, broadcast yesterday, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said that the Arab summit resolutions on the Arab-Zionist conflict do not contain anything at all that provides for the recognition of Israel. He pointed out that some clauses of these resolutions asked the UN Security Council to guarantee the implementation of these resolutions due to the presence of some members in the Security Council who support Arab rights and the Arab cause against the Zionist aggression and its supporters.

The information minister said that during his presence in Tehran he will hold talks with some Iranian officials on ways to bolster and develop bilateral relations.

ALGERIAN CHARGE, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MEET

LD131804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the charge d'affaires of the Algerian Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred with the political under secretary of the Foreign Ministry this morning. During the meeting they exchanged views and discussed the outcome of the Fes summit, the continuation of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and the unity of Muslims.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,046

LD131722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Communique No 1,046 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday the combat personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying firepower superiority on all the battlefields, attacked the positions and personnel of Saddam's armed forces.

In the operations in the west of the country, in addition to defusing and collecting mines, our forces' artillery and mortars destroyed two enemy tanks and two vehicles, and silenced the enemy's artillery.

In Marivan and Paveh, the exchange of fire continued and some of the enemy's defensive positions were smashed by the forces of Islam.

In the operational zones in the south of the country our heroic forces opened heavy fire on enemy positions and put an end to the engineering and penetrating activities of the Iraqi forces.

Our forces opened fire on enemy tank and infantry concentrations. Our forces also stopped the movement of enemy personnel on the Al-Faw-Basra road and destroyed some of the Iraqi foxholes and trenches on the other side of the Arvand Rud.

During the past 24 hours, enemy air reconnaissance activities in the western and southern parts of the country were neutralized as a result of the fire of our antiaircraft units, and air violations over border towns were repulsed.

Yesterday, as a result of enemy fire, some residential parts of Abadan were set on fire and two of our compatriots were wounded in that city.

On 11 September, four of the fighting personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred in the operational zones and rushed to the presence of God.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN WARNS AGAINST CURBING IRANIAN OIL EXPORTS

GF130414 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 11 Sep 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Conspiracies Hatched Over the Persian Gulf by International Oppressors"]

[Text] Dear listeners: The consecutive defeats the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist regime has been suffering during the war it imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran have made it clear that the said regime will fall in the very near future. When Iraq launched its offensive against the newly victorious Iranian Islamic revolution 2 years ago with the support and aid of its patrons, it was confident that it would be able to surmount any obstacle placed in its path, disperse the Iranian Army within a short period of time and occupy every city and town within a period of 3 days. However, when chants of "God is great" began to resound on the [words indistinct] of Khorramshahr, international oppressors realized that they had made a major blunder in their calculations regarding the Islamic revolution and the Muslims. In fact, they realized there existed no one who could succeed in besieging the Islamic revolution.

After the recovery of Khorramshahr from the aggressive Ba'thists, the imperialists moved to extend every kind of military and material aid to the mercenary Saddam forces in order to eliminate the effects of this major defeat on the Saddam regime. Within the framework of this move they resorted to every kind of inhuman action. In fact they used napalm bombs against defenseless and innocent people living in towns and villages. They also used 30-meter [as heard]-long SAM's to destroy [words indistinct] in Iran. Meanwhile, they totally destroyed the cities and towns they occupied.

However, irrespective of all their inhuman and treacherous moves, they failed in weakening the determination of the Islamic fighters to continue the war. In fact, the Islamic forces have been dealing hard blows on the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist administration, weakening it further each time. [Words indistinct] the operations codenamed Jerusalem and Ramadan constitute an example of this fact. [sentence indistinct]

The visit paid to Iraq by a U.S. delegation recently and the secret talks Saddam has held with politicians from the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union have [words indistinct] conspiracies. The said conspiracies have been hatched in complete agreement and put into effect simultaneously with two goals in mind: the first being to achieve political victory. In this respect, the imperialist propaganda media raised a major clamor to the effect that the Persian Gulf was an insecure region and that oil tankers were unable to travel through it.

The second objective was to create favorable conditions for international cartels after the spreading of such reports to the world to achieve (?their goals) by raising insurance fees for the said tankers. Regardless of all this, however, the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist administration and its patron, U.S. imperialism, failed to achieve any positive result from their concentrated efforts and conspiracies.

It must be recalled at this point that ever since the first day of the war, the Iraqi Ba'thist administration planned to bomb Khark Island with a view to destroying Iran's oil installations on it. However, the [word indistinct] and heroic Air Force of Iran did not give the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist forces an opportunity to launch such an initiative.

Meanwhile, by claiming that the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz are insecure zones and that Iran intends to block the latter, they are trying to attract the usurper superpowers to the region. Irrespective of this fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated that it is determined to safeguard the Persian Gulf's security. In fact, it has successfully safeguarded it to date. The travel of oil tankers to and from this region continues without any break at all.

Meanwhile, with a view to aborting the conspiracies of international cartels, the Islamic Republic of Iran (?is insuring) all oil tankers through the Iran insurance company which is renowned throughout the world. However, we warn those countries which run their [words indistinct] with the oil they purchase from the Persian Gulf that if international oppressors move to prevent the Persian Gulf as an insecure region in an attempt to curb Iran's oil exports, we will not allow even a handful of oil to be exported from the Persian Gulf to any country by the international oppressors. Undoubtedly, [words indistinct] will end in failure. And, suffering from this [words indistinct] blow will be the whole world, particularly Europe.

NVOI: U.S. WARSHIPS ON WAY TO PERSIAN GULF

TA090918 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 9 September carried a commentary, entitled "America: Get Out of the Persian Gulf."

It said that another group of U.S. warships that are permanently deployed in the Indian Ocean have set sail for the Persian Gulf. These ships are scheduled to complement the U.S. naval force which is currently in Bahrain. It is said in the U.S. naval base in Bahrain that this decision was reportedly taken so that if necessary they would guard the docks at Khark Island.

As we are aware, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never requested nor will it request such assistance from the Reagan administration. However, the U.S. Government, particularly the Reagan administration, has declared the Persian Gulf, including the southern region of our Islamic Republic, as its so-called region of vital interests. On the basis of such a colonialist thesis the Reagan administration considers interference in the internal affairs of the countries of this region, including our Islamic Republic, as something normal and has never concealed this from anyone.

Currently scores of strategic regions have been established in Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia by the United States in which more than 30,000 U.S. military personnel have been deployed. These bases are in fact intended for the U.S. interventionist Rapid Deployment Forces. U.S. military activity in the Persian Gulf poses a great danger to the independence and security of the nations and countries of the region, particularly our Islamic Republic.

DEPUTY COMMANDER ON GUARDS IN NAVY, AIR FORCE

LD122102 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12 IRNA -- Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Sham'khani, said in an interview published today that Iraq should be blamed for supplying explosive materials to terrorist organisations, which culminate in the maiming and murdering of innocent civilians, such as the recent bomb explosion in southern Tehran.

He made this comment in an interview with the daily ETTELA'AT, adding that the bomb attacks had been aimed at alienating the people from the Islamic revolution and its leaders, Imam Khomeyni.

"Just as the deposed shah took his ideas to the grave, Saddam, America, and Rajavi (fugitive MKO [Mohahedin-e Khalq] leader) would take their ideas to the grave as well...", Sham'khani said. He said that in the former regime the people faced guns and today they were facing bombs.

The deputy commander further said that during August the IRGC had discovered and defused more than five bombs, adding that the security forces would continue their operations against saboteurs.

Speaking about the activities of the Islamic revolutionary guards in the navy and air force, Sham'khani said that in the very near future navy units of the IRGC would be present in the waters of the Islamic Republic. He added that the IRGC had begun to train its first naval battalion and would "react seriously" to any acts of aggression against Iranian waters by the superpowers.

In relation to pilot training, he said that some members of the IRGC had been trained to fly aircraft. Sham'khani further said that the IRGC would certainly expand its activities in these fields.

FORCES CAPTURE REBEL POSITIONS, WEAPONS

LD131744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit from Sanandaj, during a successful operation luanched by combatants of Islam yesterday, the village of (Najmeh Pa'in) was cleansed of the filthy existence of American minigroups and 15 bandits and enemies of the Muslim Kurdish people were arrested.

The combative forces of Islam, comprising the heroic warriors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the gendarmerie, police and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, carried out a series of successful operations on 11 September and liberated the village of (Darreh Jangar), in the vicinity of Saqqez.

During these operations, one of the main headquarters of the counterrevolutionaries was destroyed and a number of mercenaries of the East and West were killed. It is necessary to explain that, during these successful operations, the lion-heroes of Islam arrested several mercenaries and succeeded in seizing a large quantity of ammunition, including several missiles [mushak].

The same report indicates that four members of the treacherous and illegal Komeleh minigroups became aware of the filthy and inhumane nature of this minigroup and gave themselves up to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps at Divandarreh and Baneh and asked for safe conduct.

OPPOSITION GROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED IN HAMEDAN

GF132032 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Sep 82 p 13

[Communique issued by the Hamedan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- date no given]

[Text] Today the brother Islamic revolution guards of Hamedan succeeded in identifying a number of the members of Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq -- minority -- and dealt a severe blow to this weak body of hirelings of foreigners. In the operation a quantity of arms, ammunition, printed material and interorganizational documents were found and the leaders of the organization in Hamedan, Soltan 'Ali Oshtorani, alias J'afar -- in charge of the Hamedan and (Qaraveh) branch of the organization -- Akbar Moslem Khani, alias 'Ali -- in charge of the disciplinary and publication committee -- and Amir (Kabriai), alias 'Ali -- in charge of distribution of magazines -- together with a number of other members of this minigroup were arrested and turned over to the judicial authorities.

According to a report from Sume'eh Sara, four active supporters of the U.S. hypocrite minigroup were arrested by the brother revolution guards of the town.

SIX MOJAHEDIN KILLED IN TEHRAN CLASHES

NC121114 Paris AFP in English 1013 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12 (AFP) -- Six militants of the underground left-wing Mojahedin movement have been killed and four others wounded in clashes with revolutionary guards in and around Tehran, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, daily paper of the ruling party, reported today.

Quoting a revolutionary guards spokesman, the paper said the Mojahedin -- branded here officially as the "hypocrites" -- had attacked members of the Islamic militia in three of the clashes, in central and southern Tehran.

Two of the Mojahedin died when the militia discovered two caches at Karaj 45 kms (30 miles) west of here and seized a "large quantity of arms, documents and ammunition" it added. It did not say when the clashes took place.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS NEW EXPLOSION IN TEHRAN

GF101728 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Three days after the planting of a bomb by the decadent mullahs' regime on Khayyam Avenue in Tehran, which resulted in the killing and injuring of a number of persons, another bomb exploded in Kuche Berlin in Tehran.

CITIZENS ASKED TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

LD121814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Central Islamic Revolution Committee has issued a statement in connection with the bomb-planting plot hatched by pro-U.S. hypocrites. The statement called on the Islamic Hezbollahi nation to maintain vigilance and when coming across suspect objects to observe safety regulations by not approaching the objects in question and to report the details by telephone to Nos 310001-9, the central Islamic Revolution Committee, or to Nos 314021-9, the police center, or to the nearest security center and to inform officials of the details.

EXPLOSIVES MAKERS ORDERED TO APPEAR FOR MEETING

GF140719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 14 Sep 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The Islamic revolution prosecutor's office of the army orders all owners, presidents, officials and workers of the factories producing gunpowder, nitrates and other detonating and incendiary materials in Tehran and its suburbs to come to the Islamic revolution prosecutor's office of the army at Martyr Qoddusi Crossroads (formerly Qasr Road) at 0800 on 16 September for an important meeting. This announcement is official and if the named people do not appear at the given time they will be considered lawbreakers.

CABINET BRIEFED ON HORMOZGAN SITUATION, POLICY

LD121214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Cabinet met this morning in the presence of President Khamene'i. At this session, which began with recitations from the holy Koran, developments in the region and the country's affairs were discussed and reviewed. Reviewing the outcome of the Fes conference, any compromise with imperialism and Zionism was condemned. Messrs Parvaresh, Salimi and 'Asgar-Owladi, ministers of education and training, defense and commerce, who are members of the special commission investigating the problems of Hormozgan Province, then reported to the Cabinet on their trip and recent visit to this province.

After studying the problems of this province the prime minister commented on finding speedy solutions for these problems.

Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy was also discussed at the session and President Khamene'i made a speech in this connection, in which he classified foreign countries and commented on the (?suitable) policies to be adopted in relations with each of these countries. The reports made by the cultural, technological and political commissions were studied and a number of proposals ratified in today's session.

TRANSPORTATION OFFICIAL REPORTS ON USSR VISIT

GF111925 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Aug 82 p 9

[Report on interview with Karbasian, under secretary of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Karbasian noted that the purpose of the visit of the Iranian delegation to Moscow was to participate in the preliminary conference on transportation and in the meeting of the commission on economic cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union. He said this commission was set up 11 years ago and its meetings are held in Iran and the Soviet Union alternately.

He added that the problem of the rail link and the problems regarding the transportation of goods by train was among the matters discussed with the Soviet officials. It was decided that a subcommittee consisting of representatives of Iran and the Soviet Union will meet in Baku in March next year to discuss the above matter. He added: During the course of our discussions, we asked the Soviet Union to provide us with descriptions and date of arrival of goods destined for Iran from Europe via the Soviet Union, so that the customs office may be prepared.

He said: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran declared during the session that it was willing to increase the capacity of loading and unloading cargo to 1.2 million tons at Bandar-e Anzali and Nowshahr with the cooperation of the employees of the port and customs organization and the coordination of the under secretaries of the transportation section of the Roads Ministry. He said that last year the capacity was 740,000 tons.

Continuing his conversation, Karbasian said: During the detailed discussions we had with the Soviet officials, we expressed our desire to have an Iranian shipping company operate in the Caspian Sea. This has been discussed by the two countries for over 2 years now but there have been no results. Furthermore, we are willing to increase the quantity of trade and barter with the Soviet Union so that 50 percent of the goods that are imported by Iran or exported from our country will travel in our vessels. We proposed that a joint shipping organization should be established by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union and we announced that Iran has every right to make use of the shared waters. He added: After in-depth talks and discussions with the first deputy ministers of the Soviet shipping minister [as published] and with permanent commission members, it was decided that the written recommendations of Iran may be submitted within 2 months. It was also decided that in the first quarter of 1983 Soviet and Iranian experts will meet in Iran and Moscow and complete the final arrangements.

Karbasian said: The Soviet Union has mentioned that an increase in Iran's imports from the Soviet Union would depend on an increase in the Soviet Union's imports, excluding oil, from the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding which a favorable answer was given by the deputy of the committee of Soviet foreign trade. [sentence as published]

Regarding the Soviet-Iranian transportation company, the under secretary of transportation said: This company is responsible for handling transport between Iran and the Soviet Union and has been set up by the Soviet Union and Iran on a basis of equality. We suggested that branch offices be opened in Baku, (Fati) and Soviet Jolfa.

He added: It was agreed that the necessary steps will be taken by the managing committee of the abovementioned company. Karbasian said: In talks with the Soviet delegation, he stated that the agreement on transit of goods between Iran and the Soviet Union should be revised so that Iran's interests may be included.

RAFSANJANI ADDRESSES NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICIALS

LD122202 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 12 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12, IRNA -- Head of the Iranian nuclear energy organisation, Reza Amrollahi, together with 20 other officials of the same organisation, this morning met with Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani at the Majlis building.

Rafsanjani, while thanking them for their visit, remarked that he and all officials deemed it necessary for the country to enjoy this branch of science and would never neglect it.

He further expressed hope that there would be more investment on an academic and educational system in this field and utmost efforts would be exerted in acquiring this science.

Concerning the Bushehr power station, Rafsanjani said that Iran would defend this project and solve its problems.

He further urged them to consider future requirements and pursue the exalted level of science and in the event everyone worked diligently in these areas, Iran would attain technical independence soon.